

St. Louis, MO -- Congressman Todd Akin, Chairman of the Seapower & Projection Forces Subcommittee, released the following statement in response to the Department of Defense's decision to allow gay marriage ceremonies to be performed by military chaplains and take place on military bases. Akin was the author of an amendment to the FY2012 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 1540) which makes it clear that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) applies to the Department of Defense.

"The Department of Defense has decided to put the White House's liberal agenda ahead of following the law. The Defense of Marriage Act makes it clear that for the purposes of the federal government, marriage is defined as between one man and one woman. The use of federal property or federal employees to perform gay marriage ceremonies is a clear contravention of the law.

"In May, the House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act carrying my amendment on this issue. My amendment, which is now the position of the House of Representatives, would make it clear that federal employees and federal property can only be used to support marriages that are consistent with DOMA."

The Akin Amendment is section 535 of H.R. 1540 which passed the House of Representatives on May 26, 2011.

HR 1540 on THOMAS: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.112hr1540>

SEC. 535. USE OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AS SITE FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES AND PARTICIPATION OF CHAPLAINS AND OTHER MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY.

(a) Limitation on Use- A military installation or other property under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense may be used as the site for a marriage ceremony only if the marriage complies with the definition of marriage in section 7 of title 1, United States Code.

(b) Limitation on Participation- A member of the Armed Forces, including a chaplain, or civilian employee of the Department of Defense acting in an official capacity may assist in or perform a marriage ceremony only if the marriage complies with the definition of marriage in section 7 of title 1, United States Code.

TIMELINE:

May 6, 2011 - Akin leads letter to SECNAV w/ 63 members of the House calling for suspension of the new Navy policy

http://akin.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1635&Itemid=74

May 11, 2011 – Navy suspends gay marriage policy for review

May 11, 2011 - Akin offers amendment to National Defense Authorization Act making it clear that DOD property & employees cannot be used to perform gay marriages (becomes section 535 of HR 1540)

http://akin.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1636&Itemid=74

May 26, 2011 – NDAA, with section 535 intact, passes the House, and so is now the official position of the House of Representatives

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